

Amendments to the Specification:

On pages 1-2, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--For solving ~~said~~ this problem, the invention proposes an orthotic cuff which is characterized in that it is made of ~~as a~~ a stiff material, padded on the inside and encloses the lower leg ~~proximally~~ in proximity of the upper ankle joint. The cuff is adapted to fit the outer contour of the lower leg, leaves the upper ankle joint uncovered, and contacts the outwardly facing area of the lower leg in such a way that ~~that~~ it does not impair the mobility of the upper ankle joint and Achilles tendon and stabilizes the tibiofibular syndesmosis.--

On page 2, please replace the first full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

--An external stabilization of the ~~tibiofibular~~ tibiofibular syndesmosis is achieved with the newly created cuff while preserving, however, the free mobility of the upper ankle joint. Thus the cuff reduces the movements between the distal ends of the tibia and fibula but allows all other movements in the upper ankle joint. What is effected in this manner are certain changes in the sequence of movements in the upper ankle joint as well as in the lifting and rolling movement of the foot. Overstressing

is avoided at the same time. This results in the improved overall functioning of the entire ankle joint, notably better distribution of the pressure and thus in a greater capacity to support loads, as well as improved posture. In connection with Ledderhose's disease, such improvements provided by the cuff lead to substantial alleviation of the pain in the foot joints (tarsal and mesotarsal joints) up to freedom of pain.--

On pages 2-3, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In addition to mobility in the upper ankle joint, ~~the~~ no restriction of the mobility of the Achilles tendon ~~may occur~~ occurs. Furthermore, it is important that the cuff is uniformly resting against the surface of the lower leg all the way around without, however, applying any pressure anywhere because such pressure would ~~again~~ lead to pain. For stabilizing the tibiofibular syndesmosis, i.e. the apparatus of ligaments between the distal ends of the tibia and the fibula, it is entirely sufficient if the relatively stiff cuff rests all around against the lower leg.--

On page 4, please replace the second full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph--

--The closing elements may be provided in the form of, for example, belts located on the one side and matching buckles positioned on the other side. As an alternative, the closing elements can be provided in the form of ribbons made of Velcro material located on the one and corresponding eyes positioned on the other side. Closing elements provided in such a form permit attaching the cuff with adequate firmness for the stabilization, which is important for the therapeutic success; however, not with excessive tightness, which ~~would~~ can cause pain.--

On page 5, please replace the last full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

--FIG. 3 is a ~~top~~ plan view of a layout of the cuff shown in FIGS. 1 and 2.--